



**LILIHA/ PUUNUI/ ALEWA/ KAMEHAMEHA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 14**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007  
MA'EMA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Stubbs at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum of eight members present.

**Members Present:** Loy Kuo, Madeline Lum, Sesnita Moepono, Donald Nitta, Karen Shishido, Claude Uehara, Dale White, Arvid Youngquist.

**Members Absent:** Wesley Fong, Ed Thompson.

**Guests:** - Katie Churchey (Representative Corinne Ching's office), Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor's Representative, Director, Community Services Department), Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative), Jay Hamai (City Project Engineer, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction, Wastewater Division), Roy Abe (HDR / Hawaii Pacific Engineers), Leslie Kurisaki (Kimura International), Peter Finnegan (Honolulu Fire Department/Kuakini Station), Phil Chun (Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland's office), Iris Oda (Board of Water Supply), Willa Donnelly, Rodney Bactista, Francis Nishimura, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

Board member Youngquist was given the oath of office before the meeting.

**Changes to the minutes of September 10, 2007:**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – Capt. Finnegan, (HFD/Kuakini Station) reported the following statistics from September: 8 structure fires, 63 medical, 3 search and rescue (people pinned in cars) and 11 miscellaneous emergencies.

Fire Safety Tip: When selecting Halloween costumes, ensure they are flame-resistant, lightweight fabric, brightly colored and clearly visible to motorists. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape. Keep length of costumes short to prevent tripping. A natural mask of cosmetics is better than a mask that may restrict breathing or obscure vision. Children should carry flashlights to light their way.

HFD provides assistance to the Honolulu Emergency Service Department (HESD) by responding cooperatively when the need for emergency care arises. Due to the HFD's 42 fire stations and the HESD's ambulance units, they are able to provide quality patient care and protect the citizens of the City and County of Honolulu.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. HFD responds with EMS on calls and sometimes they are closer to the scene so they get there first.
2. The Kuakini station was not on duty yesterday to participate in the Children and Youth Day Festival.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** - They were not in attendance tonight, there was no report given.



## **Resident Concerns:**

1. Youngquist reported that the owner of the shave ice store on Frog Lane requested the direction of the street be changed to go in the other direction. Chair Stubbs will put it on the agenda for next month.
2. Kuakini Extension Project Uehara advised that the boundary map for the Kuakini Extension Project was given to Senator Chun Oakland and Laura Thielen, Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will not finalize any construction plans at this time.

Nishimura asked why the final step cannot be taken in the Kuakini Extension project since the money is available. Kuo suggested to do what can be done now on the project and then less funding is needed in the future. Morikawa reported that the City administration is not committed to the first alternative, chosen by the Neighborhood Board and residents, because they can only proceed if DLNR takes out the sliver of land on which they cannot come to a consensus. Nishimura explained all projects have liability involved; in this case it seems insignificant compared to the benefits of the change proposed. He does not understand why things can not be done simultaneously.

Youngquist feels the Director of DLNR is taking baby steps. He suggested the Board make an appeal; maybe she can be persuaded on a one to one basis. Ask for the City to consider the small sliver of land and wait for the decision by Maluhia Hospital to release the need to have the tool shed. Stubbs is asking to go ahead with the planning.

Morikawa reported she is getting her information by communicating directly with Mel Kaku, Director of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS). They have surveyed the site and this is the City's position. Jeff Coehlo has the same position as the City. Chair Stubbs doesn't agree with putting a right hand turn into people's driveway as the solution to the Kuakini Extension problem (with Alternative No. 2). Morikawa tell Jeff Coehlo that the community still has these concerns but the City's position is expressed in the newspaper article she brought to the last meeting from the Honolulu Advertiser of September 8, 2007 (explained in last month's minutes on page 5 No. 1 under Mayor's Representative.)

Nishimura asked Morikawa to tell Coehlo the liability for this sliver of land is far less than what is accepted for other projects. Kuo suggested the sliver of land be disposed of and create wider shoulders in the road at that location.

Chair Stubbs announced a meeting will be held tomorrow at the State Capitol, Room 225 at 3:30 p.m. on this subject with Senator Chun Oakland, Councilmember Tam, Representative Ching, the City, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maluhia Hospital, Chair Stubbs and Nishimura attending. It is open to the public.

**Road Safety Audit** – Chair Stubbs reported a representative from the DTS would not be attending tonight's meeting. He read a letter received from their director, Melvin Kaku, stating they support road safety audits (RSA), but if they conducted them at the areas requested by this Board and "the numerous locations in other neighborhood areas," it would seriously stretch the City's resources. Therefore, they are assessing each site individually when they are advised of the "specific safety concerns" at that location.

**Hala Drive and Kapalama Avenue** – Morikawa reported that DTS found a multi-way stop at this intersection was not warranted now, but they planned to issue a work order to install a "No Parking Corner to Here" sign on the mauka-Koko Head corner of the Kapalama Avenue intersection to improve sight distance for ewa bound Hala Drive motorists entering the Kapalama Avenue intersection.

Regarding the inquiry for a crosswalk across from the mauka side of Kapalama Avenue, this was not installed to the geometrics of the intersection. Motorists turning right onto Kapalama Avenue from the Koko Head legs of Hala Drive would find it hard to see pedestrians in the mauka crosswalk due to the difference in roadway

widths of the Koko Head and Ewa legs of Hala Drive. Further questions should be directed to Sara Toyama of DTS at 768-8336.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Nitta lives near this intersection and feels the sign installed for Koko Head to Ewa traffic is in the wrong place because he has seen 90% of the accidents occur when drivers come from Ewa going in a Koko Head direction. This change also created a loss of a parking space.
2. Kuo reported a woman was critically injured on the Hala-Stillman crosswalk. She was in the Diamond Head-makai crosswalk when a vehicle turning left hit her. The City should be more proactive.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS)** – The representative was not present; the report was given to the Chair.

**Mayor's Report** – Debbie Kim Morikawa gave updates on the questions from the last meeting:

1. Kunawai Park - The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) reported that the stall doors and gates to the men's and women's restrooms will be part of the future comfort station renovation. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is processing the Building Permit to begin the work. They currently have staff shortages and are in the process of hiring a Construction Management Consultant to administer and inspect this construction contract. When the Building Permit is issued and a consultant hired, DDC will arrange for construction to begin on the comfort station and the pavilion.
2. Plant Overgrowth at 1661 Makuakane Place – A Notice of Violation was prepared and sent in the mail to the property owners, Keith and Nena Kawamoto who should have received it by now.
3. Play Equipment at Kunawai Pavilion – The swings were removed from its frame because it did not meet current safety standards. New play equipment and swings have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) request for replacement.
4. Possible Unsafe Rocks on mauka end of Na Pueo Park hillside above path – DPR is in the process of submitting a memo to DDC requesting inspection of the area, recommendation if action is needed and assistance to plan a project to implement the recommended action as needed. DDC will follow up on this request, but to perform it, a consultant will have to be hired.
5. Response to August 30, 2007 letter from Chair Stubbs to DTS Director, Melvin Kaku – DTS Director Kaku responded to Chair Stubbs on September 28, 2007. Previously discussed.
6. Boundary Map for Kuakini Extension Project – A map with square footage of Kauakini Extension Project was provided to Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Laura Thielen at the Department of Land and Natural Resources on October 4, 2007.
7. Shishido asked Morikawa to investigate the area of Burbank and Coehlo Way to find out what the major construction is there; as a resident she was never notified.

**Governor's Report** – Henry Oliva distributed the Governor's Neighborhood Board Update, the Governor's Update and highlighted the following items:

1. The Governor will give an address at the first *Leadership Summit on Partnership and Philanthropy* at the University of Texas at Austin from October 14 – 16. Top leaders and visionaries will explore new ideas and opportunities for partnership to ensure the next century of our parks.

2. Governor Lingle will lead an eleven-day business trip to Korea, China and Japan to build on her Administration's efforts to expand Hawai'i's business, tourism and education opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region from October 23 – November 3, 2007.
3. Governor Lingle and Jay Rasulo, Chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, announced Disney's plan to build a family resort hotel of 800 units on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu. This is Disney's first resort hotel not connected to one of its theme parks which will create over 1,000 new jobs.

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland** – Senator Chun Oakland's written report was available for review.

**Representative Corinne Ching** – Representative Ching's written report was available for review.

**Representative John Mizuno** – Chair Stubbs will call his office to see if he will be attending these meetings.

**Kalihi-Nuuanu Area Sewer Rehabilitation/Environmental Assessment Presentation** – Mr. Abe reported the following:

1. Abe distributed a Project Fact Sheet was distributed and Abe explained that sewer fees have been increasing and will continue to cover the expensive work to fix the many old sewers in the City. The Kalihi-Nuuanu area has many of the oldest sewers in the State; one quarter of them built before 1920. Before 1950 terra cotta was used for the pipes, a weaker and more brittle pipe than is used today, which caused poor sealing at the joints.
2. New sewers have good uniform slopes allowing wastewater to flow at the pumping stations from high points to low points. However many older pipes develop sags in the low point of the line where heavy materials accumulate and grease gets stuck clogging the line causing sewage spills out of the manholes or backups into homes. In some areas tree roots are a big problem.
3. Heavy rains cause spills when too much water enters sewers through pipe joints, manhole covers and pipe defects. The City was cited by the EPA for the many sewage spills in the Kalihi-Nuuanu area, so the City agreed to fix the sewer problems in that area by the end of 2009 involving 26 miles of line at a cost of around \$50 million.
4. Sewer lines in bad condition will be completely replaced, installing new pipes in the same place or parallel to the previous line by open trenching work performed during the day which will cause noise, dust and traffic congestion. Trenches will be covered with steel plates during non-working hours and the contractor will restore the pavement after the work is finished. About 5.8 miles of open trenching work is planned for the initial phase to begin the first half of 2008.
5. The other method to repair sewers will be trenchless, using the Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) method, when a flexible liner with resin is inserted into the pipe. Then hot water is circulated in the pipe hardening the resin forming a new pipe within the existing pipe. This process for pipes in fairly good condition could start in October since the City has employed the contractor and the work is exempt from the Environmental Assessment (EA) process.
6. There will be at least one major public information meeting, a website will be installed to keep residents updated and a 24/7 hotline will be available later. The contractor must notify residents and businesses of the work in their area and an EA on the project will be distributed later this year.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. HDR/Hawaii Pacific Engineers will accept comments once their Environmental Assessment has been completed.

2. Kuo asked if Kimura could coordinate with the Board of Water Supply that has a current project on a short stretch of work on Liliha Street, when the sewer project begins. Kimura is aware that there are many different projects going on in that area.
3. Kurisaki projects traffic will be the biggest concern during the project.
4. Shishido asked if they know anything about the three projects currently taking place on her street.

**Bike Resolution – Moepono moved to adopt the Kailua Bike Resolution seconded by Uehara. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.**

#### **Chair's Report**

1. Public hearings to receive testimony on the adoption of the 2007 Revised Neighborhood Plan of the City and County of Honolulu as amended are as follows:
  - a. November 3, 2007, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – noon in Conference Rooms A-C at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, Kapolei, Hawai'i
  - b. November 3, 2007, Saturday from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Hale Akoakoa Building, Windward Community College, 45-720 Kealahala Road, Kaneohe, Hawai'i
  - c. November 5, 2007, Monday from 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. at Honolulu Hale, Mayor's Conference Room 650 South King Street, Third Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii
2. The Humane Society said they will loan Mr. Wendekier one trap at a time to catch the feral cats in his area and asked that they be returned after each catch.
3. Long's Drugs – Their new facility at Liliha and Kuakini is waiting for the approval of permits. It will be a single story structure and the area has been cleaned. No date has been slated to start construction.
4. Finance Factors, is currently using the existing building.

**Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO)** - Youngquist will be the representative with Kuo as the alternate and Youngquist will notify OMPO of his appointment.

**Committees** - Chair Stubbs suggested there be a transportation committee. **Moepono moved to have a transportation committee that considers all transportation issues seconded by White.** Youngquist suggested the transportation committee be a watchdog. Chair Stubbs chose White to be chair of the Transportation Committee with Kuo and Youngquist as members. He said they can take up the issue of road safety audits providing specific and identifiable safety issues requested by DTS Director Melvin Kaku.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer White reported there was previously \$2,886.70 in the Operating Account with \$34.15 in current expenses for a balance of \$2852.55.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Trustin  
Neighborhood Assistant